

by the Conservatives

(Signed) J. E. HOOD, Gen.

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1950

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The People's Press.

GEN. SHERMAN'S RAID TO MARLBOROUGH.

INTERESTING ITEMS OF THE MARCH—A DETAILED YANKEE ACCOUNT OF IT.

The following extracts from the *Georgia* correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune, are full of interest:

RE:ACA.

This place has been strongly fortified, and had it been defended, would have been next to impossible to take. An army could have been wasted by any direct assault by enfilading batteries and mine pits placed on the hills, and running along the slopes. It could not have been flanked. It would have proven a trap in which they could have been shut up, and compelled to surrender by siege. So the whole year's labor was lost, and not even a gun fired from behind the elaborate breastworks. The place is a picture of desolation. It was never even in peaceful times, an inviting situation for persons fond of shade and repose to dust.

The troops were here divided, one column taking the left, crossing a ford, and marching via Newton; another and the heaviest, taking the center, a third column, marching the left. The wagon trains kept on moving long into the night; in fact, there was apparently no cessation of the travel.

ROME.

Gen. J. C. Davis's Division surprised and captured Rome with all the machine shops, laboratories, arsenals and rebel manufacturing of arms and material of war intact. An effort was made by the rebels to destroy the machine shops, but the design was frustrated. This is the heaviest blow the Confederacy has yet received.

KINGSTON, GA., May 21.—Our infantry advance entered this deserted and sorrowful looking town yesterday morning, after indulging in a series of heavy skirmishes, extending a distance five miles north of Kingston. Gen. Sherman's rapid progress through this mountainous country, abounding in a continued line of natural fortifications from Chatsahoochee to Atlanta is most surprising. By his masterly strategy he has compelled the enemy to evacuate positions naturally impregnable, where military skill had lent it out to strengthen the snug retreats of the foe. Some of these rebel positions have been taken by assault, while others could not be flanked, and to storm them would have cost us a terrible sacrifice.

PERIL OF GEN. SHERMAN AND THOMAS. Eight miles from Dalton, the rear of the rebel column was brought to bay, at a place called "Oak Grove." Finding us pressing him rear, he was driven to the rear, and the roads getting narrow, and with sloughs of mud across streams which needed bridging, all required more than likely to gain—they found it necessary to make a stand about an hour before sunset.

"Oak Grove," Gordon county, was formerly owned by Mr. G. C. Saxton, who built there a large outgrowth upon Fowler's plan, the material being a cement of gravel and lime. The situation was a favorable one for a fight, the sharpshooters and skirmishers.

Here the retreating rebel column made a desperate stand, engaging our advance skirmishers, and obliging us to bring up our two batteries to co-operate. The fight lasted until long after dark, batteries from both sides being brought into active play. We lost a few men killed and wounded, and I regret to say one of the severest losses we suffered was from the premature bursting of a shell fired by the 6th Ohio battery, which killed six and wounded many more of our men. The battery belonged to Wood's division. Gen. Newton had the advance, and Battery M 1st Indiana, was doing the heavy business, assisted by another battery on the right, when this deplorable accident occurred. Col. Sherman's brigade was chiefly engaged during the sharply contested fight. Signal Officer L. F. Cook, was wounded in the leg by a shell, the same fragment broke the shoulder strap from the shoulder of Captain Bliss, of Gen. Newton's staff, and broke the leg of Col. Morgan's horse. Gens. Sherman, Thomas, Newton and Howard, with their staff, were standing together when the shell exploded near them.

WEDNESDAY, May 18.—The firing last evening wound up by a conflagration of the gin house and barn on the Saxton place, which lit up the heavens with a lurid light. Visiting the scene of engagement this morning, I find a crowd of soldiers ransacking the "Gravel House," as it is called here, rummaging among old trunks and through pyramids of torn clothing and papers for valuables. The house admirably served the purpose of a fort, which may hereafter be enumerated among the advantages of Fowler's Octagons, that had been peppered by grape and canister at short range which merely caused indentations of an inch or two, the materials crumbling out. Two Parrot shells were the only projectiles which perforated the walls. The soldiers piled the bedding and old trunks together in two of the rooms, and applying the match to the kindling and commodious edifice was soon a pyre of flames. All the out buildings shared the same fate. The fine grove of young oaks, which had doubtless yielded a grateful shade in the heat of summer to the owners or occupants of this aristocratic residence had, with a few exceptions, all been more or less shattered by the shower of missiles, large and small, which for the space of two hours or more rained on the place. Thus passed in the midst of the wilderness of war, one of the finest estates I have yet met with in Georgia. The letters found upon the premises plainly indicate the rebel character of the occupants, and the place had been the headquarters of the rebel General, so I was told.

ADAMSVILLE SHOPS.

The army pursued its march from this place. Gen. Howard, with the 4th corps, taking the lead. Two and a half miles further on we came to another deserted village, where the rebels had established hospitals for the treatment of their wounded. Only three or four families remained in this place. Adamsville is a town of about 500 inhabitants during times of peace. There is a railroad depot, a Baptist church, a hotel and a large foundry and machine shop, or manufactory of arms—a short Enfield or Mississippi rifle which shoots 900 yards. The machinery was all removed to Dalton at the time of the battle of Mission Ridge. About 200 men were employed in the establishments, of which a large number were Northern mechanics. One of the best workmen was a Connecticut man named Thomas Wright. The hotel was kept by Mr. Barney. It was vacated about 8 months since. There was some dozen stores in the place. The place was found to be abandoned and all the goods removed. During the fight between this place and the "Gravel House," the wounded, about 100,

were brought here and dressed. A leg, amputated above the knee, which must have belonged to a tall man, another amputated below the knee, a mule too, and other relics of the hospital, lay in one of the deserted buildings. Only three or four families remain in the place. A rebel surgeon, to quiet apprehension, sent a written message that persons who remained at home would not be disturbed, but most of the inhabitants left, taking everything away by railroad.

THE GEORGIA FRONT.

We received no papers from Atlanta yesterday, but the following letter of "Personne" to the *Carolinian* will be read with interest:

BEHIND THE CHATTAHOOCHEE.

July 14, 1864. Gen. Johnston's plan of campaign embraces three primary objects—the defeat of Sherman, the salvation of his own army, and the preservation of the granaries of Georgia. Thus far, the first of these purposes has come to naught. With a greatly superior force—numbering ninety thousand men—Gen. Sherman has, from the beginning, moved in such a manner that it has been claimed to be impossible to attack him with advantage, while by means of his eight hundred miles of entrenchments—according to Yankee authority—he has been enabled to outflank and compel us to retreat—Gen. Johnston has sought every opportunity to give his antagonist battle; nay, he has waited until the battle was raised upon his rear before moving forward, in the hope that he might turn upon his foe, and yet to the present hour he has failed to bring on the issue.

By the confession of the enemy himself, the defeat of Gen. Johnston is one of the most skillful and wonderful achievements which the history of war records, for he has saved an army from annihilation, inflicted tremendous damage on his antagonist, and at this hour confronts him with the original disparity between the two forces so much reduced, that in a fair and open field fight, there is not a question as to our success.

Notwithstanding this brilliant result, there are those outside of the army who now begin to deny to Commander-in-Chief as an over-estimated officer, and who have suddenly discovered his inability to cope with the emergency, before him. Possibly Gen. Johnston may not be an aggressive man by nature, and when risked, opportunities are thrust upon him, he is unequal to the task of their management; but that he has thus far acted wisely and well in withdrawing his troops, will I believe be attested by the history of the events we record.

It should be enough for these pseudo military philosophers to know that he has saved his army, and in saving the army has saved the last military organization on the same ground which the Confederacy will soon have around our people, our homes, our property, a strong arm of protection, but for which we would be over-run by the foe. Nay, more; he defends the rear of the army of General Lee and the vast store house of supplies by which he is maintained. Let one imagine, for a moment, Gen. Johnston defeated by Gen. Sherman, with his exchequer of thousands. Where would be Atlanta, Macon, Augusta or the "cities by the sea" where our lines of communication, the integrity of our country and the immunities from danger now enjoyed, where the ten thousand interests by which we as a nation "live, and move, and have our being," and the resources by which we are sustained and our independence is promised? The question requires no answer that is not already trembling in our hearts.

Gen. Johnston, therefore, has been compelled to regard the situation not only as a soldier but as a statesman. Willing to encounter the obloquy of the people, and to trust to results for the prudent general by outbidding the lives committed to his charge, although it may have been at an unavoidable sacrifice of territory, if he could not alone and single handed do what the country expected of him, he has done the next best thing practicable under the circumstances, by drawing Sherman a long distance from his base and preparing him for a crushing defeat. He has urged upon the President by telegraph and letter, and Gov. Brown has done the same, the importance of severing the lines of communication in the enemy's rear, and the Executive has been almost implored to detach Forrest for this purpose; but the appeal has been unheeded and the crisis is upon us.

What is to be done by important duties which hourly demand his presence upon our flanks, Morgan is retreating in Virginia, and Forrest was awaiting the arrival of Washburn in North Mississippi, comparatively idle. Yet Forrest knows that his place is here; and he is said to have publicly declared his ability to destroy every important link of communication between Sherman and his base, and then whip the advancing columns from the West. No one can doubt that a defeat of Sherman by these means would be the defeat of every other column in this section of the Confederacy. The retreat of the Federal army from its present position, with Sherman starting in the face, would be rapid. With Johnston closely pressing the rear, it would quickly become a rout. Yet the President appears blind to the situation, deaf to all remonstrances, and obstinate in adhering to a policy which persists in the control of our campaigns, and obstructs the free action of our generals. As I observed in a previous letter, the Executive may not have directly interfered with Gen. Johnston during the operations of the past two months, but he has thus far declined to co-operate with him in the most essential of all points—namely, an attack upon the enemy's rear.

This is the state of affairs before the country, and beginning to be known to the people. The Georgians are not slow to perceive that the safety of their State is endangered. Governor Brown has said it, and although he may not be the oracle of all parties, the proclamation issued by him, in which he practically declares that the State must now fight her own battles, irrespective of all aid which the President may render, has drawn still broader the line of demarcation which he has sought to establish between his own and the general government, and strengthened the States' fight policy, of which he is the champion.

There are no demonstrations on our front worthy of record. Johnston is still waiting on the enemy and offering them battle, but the Yankee movements are enveloped in mystery. Three of their seven corps are said to be on this side of the river and strongly entrenched. A movement of their cavalry, 2,000 strong, was made against Newton, on our left yesterday, but was promptly met by Gen. Armstrong and defeated. The excitement in the city has subsided, and the town is a mere shell of its former self, everything of value having been removed. Gen. Bragg is still here, conferring with Gen. Johnston. Our troops are enjoying rest after the arduous duties of the past two months, and in every camp you see evidences of renewed health, spirits and determination.

Bathing and washing of clothes is the order of the day. The streams are positively muddy

with the dirt which the men have accumulated on the retreat and rubbed off here. The mountains are entering the water, there begins to drift away from them some of the mud in state of solution.

PERSONNE.

FROM VIRGINIA—AMUSING INCIDENT.

Quite a ludicrous incident occurred on our Chesterfield front a day or two since. One of the rebel privateers, who boasts of a shirt which was once white, subjected it to the washing process, and after chucking it to the bear of the sick in the trenches. The wind was blowing briskly, and the shirt soon became sufficiently dry to flutter in the breeze, which it did with no little display. Presently, a couple of Federal officers, very humorously uniformed, were seen advancing to our lines, with a white flag hoisted. They soon reached our breastworks, and one, who ranked as Major, enquired with becoming gravity, "Gentlemen! what is your wish?" "If I don't understand you sir," responded the Confederate officer, "I am at a loss to know what you want." "You have displayed the white flag," quickly rejoined the Yankee, "and we have come to see its cause." "You are mistaken sir," it is on a newly washed shirt, hung up to dry," replied the Yankee officer, looking first at the shirt, and then at the Confederate officer of the day, and realizing the truth as well as the humor of his position, his countenance speedily relaxed into a broad grin. Without another word, the couple about faced and soon found their way back to their own lines. Our boys were greatly amused to think a Yankee could tell a shirt from a flag of truce.

DISTRIBUTION OF ABE'S DOCUMENTS.

On the same portion of our lines, a few evenings since, a kite was seen to ascend from the Yankee works, and the parties engaged in the innocent and somewhat juvenile pastime, "kite flying," were immediately upon the alert. The kite, which held in its talons a sheet of paper, was seen to descend, and down came the kite. The "kite" was found to consist of a sheet of paper, containing a proclamation of last December, granting an amnesty to every rebel who would lay down his arms, and return to the embrace of the best government the world ever saw. The words of the proclamation were: "The 'kite' was found to consist of a sheet of paper, containing a proclamation of last December, granting an amnesty to every rebel who would lay down his arms, and return to the embrace of the best government the world ever saw. 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